

help them or are we going to stand by and do nothing? That is the choice that is before us. I hope we respond, and I hope we respond quickly.

We need to immediately pass the emergency supplemental that is in the conference committee between the House and the Senate tomorrow. We need to pass that legislation because it provides an expansion of credit to get farmers into the fields, and we need to add to that package. We need to add \$1.5 billion to keep the promise that we made last year in the disaster bill. We now know the farmers have signed up for the program that we have promised. We found we are \$1.5 billion short of funding what we promised. We ought to keep the promise, and we ought to do it in this bill.

In addition, we ought to provide the same supplemental benefit we provided last year to offset this dramatic decline in prices. That would be an AMTA supplemental, transition payments that were provided for in the last farm bill that are going down each and every year. Last year, because of the crisis, we provided a 50-percent supplement. We need to do that again this year. It will cost \$2.8 billion.

That is a total package approaching \$5 billion. Last year, we passed a package of \$6 billion. I would like to have that amount again this year, but the reality is that we are going to have to make do with the package like the one I have described, at least for now. But it needs to happen now. We should not wait because while we are waiting, literally thousands of people are being forced off the land and being financially destroyed, through no fault of their own, by being caught up in a circumstance of bad weather, bad prices, and bad policy. There is not much we can do about the prices, there is not much we can do about the weather, but we can do something about the policy. That is our responsibility. I hope we meet that responsibility and meet it this week.

I want to show, before I leave this subject, some charts that appeared in the newspapers back home while I was there. It showed the net return per acre of wheat in North Dakota going back to 1986. You can see the kinds of returns that farmers were seeing per acre for planting wheat. Our State is a major wheat State, really one of the key breadbasket States in the Nation.

As you can see, there were positive returns of over \$30 an acre in 1986 and 1987. Then we saw pretty tough times in 1988, 1989, and 1990, the drought years. We saw a substantial improvement in 1991, 1992, and 1993. In 1994, we saw a steep slide; 1995, further erosion; 1996 was about the same as 1995, and

then the bottom fell out in 1997, negative returns per acre approaching a \$20 loss per acre. The more you planted, the worse off you were, and the same pattern was repeated in 1998.

If we do not act, 1999 is going to be a whole lot worse and, literally, as I have indicated, thousands of farm families are going to be facing auction. I showed a cartoon that was in the biggest paper in my State several weeks ago. It showed a pole, and it had auction signs, 9 or 10 different auction signs all pointing in different directions. Sitting on top of the pole was a buzzard. That is kind of the feeling in my State right now. The buzzards are swooping overhead waiting for another farm failure, waiting for another auction, waiting to see another farm family sold out, because that is what is happening all too frequently in my State these days.

If it was not enough to have the dominant crop in negative return territory the last year, this is the pattern of raising cattle. You can see very much a similar pattern, only returns went negative earlier for cattle. In 1995 and 1996, they were negative, and they were barely in the black for 1997 and 1998.

Two-thirds of the income in my State is crop income. So when crops are giving negative returns, and then you face on top of that livestock giving negative returns, it is impossible to make money—impossible to make money—again, not through any fault of these farm families. These are the hardest working, most honest people I know, but they are being devastated by events beyond their control.

The financial collapse in Asia cost them their biggest customer. The financial collapse in Russia cost them a very big customer. Those events, working together, have created a nightmare for these farm families. Then on top of that, after you stack these natural disasters, you put the final coup de grace—the bad policy coming out of Washington—and it is pretty hard for a farm family to make it.

It is pretty hard for them to take on the Europeans when those countries have decided that they are going to spend \$50 billion a year to support their producers and we are spending \$5 billion. We are being outspent, outgunned, 10-to-1. And why? Because the Europeans decided some time ago that it made sense to their countries to have people out across the land. They did not want to see everybody forced into the city. They did not think that made sense for their society.

I hope very soon we will come to a similar conclusion in this country and will decide that it makes sense to have people out across the land, because if

we do not respond, there will be precious few people out there; they will all be headed to the cities. The last thing we need in the Washington metropolis is more people: More crowding, more pollution, more hassle. That is exactly what is going to happen unless we respond.

This is a good country, a generous country, and one that responds when people are in crisis. We are going to respond to the disasters in Oklahoma, in Kansas, in Tennessee, and the other States that have been affected. I believe we are going to respond in this crisis, as well, in the farm States of America, because they are on the brink of a total financial collapse. That is the seriousness of what is happening.

Now is the time; this week is the time; on this supplemental is the time to respond, and to respond strongly, to give people the help they desperately need.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands in adjournment under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:32 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 11, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 10, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

M. MICHAEL EINIK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

MARK WYLEA ERWIN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS AND AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES.

CHRISTOPHER E. GOLDTHWAIT, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LARRY C. NAPPER, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING TENURE OF SERVICE AS COORDINATOR OF THE SUPPORT FOR EAST EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY (SEED) PROGRAM.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

DONALD LEE PRESSLEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE THOMAS A. DINE, RESIGNED.